

Garrett Park Oral History Archives Tape

**Interview with Paul Erik Edlund
Resident, 10922 Kenilworth Avenue
Interviewer – Barbara Shidler
Assistant Interviewer – Lizzie Glidden-Boyle
Sides “A & B” - Tape 1 of 3
Interview Date – September 20, 1996**

Transcriber/Date – Jean Horan (4419 Cambria Avenue, Garrett Park) June 13, 2011

Shidler – Give me your name, address and a little bit about your education.

Edlund – Well, Paul E. Edlund - Erik is what the E stands for. I live at 10922 Kenilworth Avenue, Garrett Park, Md. I've lived here in the town since July of 1958.

Shidler – You were born?

Edlund – I was born in Cortland, New York, south-central New York near Ithaca, May 11, 1922. You said name and education. Did you want to know about my family and all that?

Shidler – No, just tell me where you went to school and so on.

Edlund - My father and mother met in Cortland, New York, where I was born in 1922.

Shidler – Delicious apples!

Edlund - Cortland, Northern Spys...Northern Spys are my favorite. But when I was about a year old, they moved to Fayetteville, New York, which is outside of Syracuse, New York – about 6 miles. And I grew up there and went to Fayetteville High School and graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1940. And I went to business school in Syracuse, New York - Central City Business Institute - for one year and then worked as a timekeeper in the Continental Can Company for, well, until the time I went in the Service. I enlisted in the Army Air Corps in the fall of 1942 and was called in January of '43. I think a large percentage of 1943 I spent on troop trains, going first of all, from Syracuse to Atlantic City, New Jersey where I took Basic Training. Took the troop train back to Syracuse, NY, where I spent three months in pre-flight at Syracuse University. Went from there on a troop train to San Antonio, Texas, from there, I troop-trained to a classification center where I was classified to go to Bombardier School, and from there, I troop-trained to Houston, Texas for pre-flight. And then, from Houston, Texas, I went by troop train to Harlingen Texas to Harlingen Texas Aerial Gunnery School. From Harlingen, Texas, I went by troop train to Big Spring, Texas, where I got my commission and Bombardier's wings in January of '44. I then took the train home on leave from Fort Worth to Chicago, commissioned second Lieutenant at that time. And I sat on a bag from Fort Worth, Texas to Chicago. The trains at that time were unairconditioned. You could smoke anyplace so it was a great experience to ride from Fort Worth to Chicago sitting on a bag and smoking (laughs). Actually, I sat out mostly, what do you call it – the vestibule?

Shidler – Um hum...

Edlund – And I got the Chicago train, changed trains there and went on from there to where my family lived at that time in Lakewood, Ohio, just outside of Cleveland. I took another train from there to Chicago. And then, after I had to leave there, I took another train to Westover Field, which is just outside of Springfield, Massachusetts, where I met up with the other members of the crew of mine, or my crew. Ten members of my crew were notified we were going to be on heavy bombers and...

Shidler – When did you ever get in the airplane (laughing) – off your bag?

Edlund – From this time, from Westover field in Massachusetts, we went by troop train to Chatham Field, which was just outside Savannah, Georgia. And it was there that we got – well, I did a lot of flying other places - not flying planes - bombardier shows and gunnery shows –exciting...

Shidler – How old were you?

Edlund – I went in the Service in January of '43, so I was 21 when I went in the Service. I was getting to my 22nd birthday shortly after the train trip.

Shidler – (laughing) Yet another train trip...

Edlund – Spent three months in Chatham Field, Georgia, learning how to fly in a B-24. You both know what a B-24 is?

Shidler – Yup.

Glidden-Boyle – I was older than you were, Paul, remember?

Edlund - Want a picture of it? Here's a picture.

Shidler – Sure!

Edlund – And then I have some newspapers (unintelligible). It doesn't say anything about Garrett Park. This is July, 1944 and (unintelligible). And this is a picture of gunnery school in July, 1943.

Glidden-Boyle – How many years were you in the Military?

Edlund – Ah...about 2 and $\frac{3}{4}$ years. We spent time flying B-24s out in the Caribbean, over Southern Georgia. We'd go and picture-bomb factories in Birmingham, Alabama, for practice bombing. We didn't actually drop any bombs in Birmingham. We just took pictures. So that was three months there. We took a troop train back to Mitchel Field, Long Island. And there, we picked up a brand new B-24 and at Mitchel Field, we were there in May, and I celebrated my 22nd birthday at Mitchel Field in 1944. We then took the plane and were given instruction to fly to an airport in Florida, which we did and then we...I'm getting on to my education.

Shidler – (laughing) I understand. Go on. It is part of your education.

Edlund – Ah...what was I in the field...anyway, we were given this brand-new airplane, you know, off the production line, and we flew it to...actually, I just sat along the (unintelligible). I didn't have anything to do with flying. And we flew to a field in Florida. And when we got there, they checked the plane out (it was a brand-new airplane) and then they gave us sealed instructions as to where we were going to go overseas. They gave us a heading and told us to fly out over the Caribbean. "When you get out of the Caribbean, open it up and you'll see where you're going to go." And these were all...I was the third-oldest person on the crew, around 22. The tail gunner was about 36. We called him "Pop", which was perfectly natural. The waist gunner was 23 or 24 and I was 22. The rest of them were 19. Uh...

Shidler – Children!

Edlund – Children...kids you wouldn't trust in the street now a days. And the well, turret gunner - he lied about his age - got in at 17 or 18 so he was just turning 18. So, we got over the Caribbean and we opened up the envelope and it said we were to report to such-and-such an airbase in southern Italy as part of the 15th Air Force. And gave us instructions where the next field was. So, we then flew down to a field in British Guyana and we stayed over night. We then flew, I think...this was a long time ago, was 50 years ago...we then flew down to Natal, Brazil.

Shidler – (laughing).

Edlund – I was just going to say that we were all younger than that...you were probably...(unintelligible)...

Shidler – You were young, very young (laughing).

Edlund – So, we flew to Natal, Brazil and from there, we stayed about two or three nights while they checked the plane over and made sure. Then they sent us across the South Atlantic to Dakar in Africa. And then we'd gone from there to Marrakech and then to Tripoli. And in Tripoli, they gave us the airfield we'd land in southern Italy. And we flew there and landed on May 24th. So, it took us about 12 days, I guess, to get over.

Glidden-Boyle – Is that where you linked up with the ski troops? The 10th Mountain Infantry?

Edlund - You talking about Donn Mader? Not Donn Mader...Don Chrisler...

Glidden-Boyle – Donn Mader. No, 10th Mountain Infantry was...

Edlund – No, I know what you're talking about. Where did you get this information?

Glidden-Boyle – You were in southern Italy at that same time.

Edlund – Oh, no no. We were in the Army Air Corps. We had nothing to do with that. That would be the Infantry, that would be the Army. I was in the Army Air Corps, which would be a separate branch set up.

Glidden-Boyle – Right, so, right, you weren't sort of in the same area. You weren't in...

Edlund - No, they were farther up. We were down in, um, down near Bari, which is on the Adriatic, down about that level. I got there May 24th and I was critically injured on June 26th, 32 days later. And I was on my 23rd mission, which was over Austria. I was the only person who was injured in the crew and they got me back to Italy four hours later...it was four hours.

Glidden-Boyle – You were in the airplane? You were on the ground?

Edlund – No, I was in the airplane – 19,000 feet above Austria.

Glidden-Boyle – And how were you the only one...?

Edlund - Well, the shell, the shell that hit me came through the top of the airplane. A German fighter plane dove down through the, actually, there were a number of German fighter pilots – but dove down through the formation, they were in formation, and fired 20 millimeter cannon shells down at the plane. And one of those shells came through the top of the plane – I tell it all here if you want to read it, you don't have to...

Shidler – I want to.

Edlund – It came through the top and it hit me in the elbow and exploded. When it exploded, I was out, ah, my arm was on the floor. So, uh...

Glidden-Boyle – What happened to you at that time? What was going on when you were flying...what were you doing? You were the...

Edlund – Well, actually, I was getting ready to go down in the nose of the plane – of the B-24. Prior to going to the nose, I mean, prior to getting the target, I had to go down and set some dials and do some calculations, set information to the sight. Actually, we didn't have a bombsight at that time. We flew in formation – nine in a diamond, step diamond. We had the lead bombardier, much like a series of bowling balls – one, two, three, four, five, six, seven...a diamond here and then a reverse down here. And they were stepped down. And what you did- the lead bombardier in the first plane in that particular group would drop his bombs and then you were supposed to drop your bomb by visual sight of when he drops his.

Shidler – Ooh...

Edlund – So, what you did, is each one did it and you couldn't do it exactly the same. The bomb, did you ever see a shot of the ground in World War II? The bombs seem to walk across the ground and the reason for it is the first bomb hits here, the second group hits here and this other one across the target.

Glidden-Boyle – Right.

Edlund - So, I was behind... and usually, I rode with a co-pilot and a pilot on take-off until we got to the target. There was a bench behind them – engineer's bench – which I sat. And then I had certain duties to perform...

Glidden-Boyle – You were the engineer?

Edlund – This will give you a lot more on my education...I don't know whether you want to hear it or not...

Shidler – I want to hear it. Go on.

Glidden-Boyle – You were the engineer?

Edlund – No, I was the bombardier.

Glidden-Boyle – You were the bombardier.

Edlund – And one of the things I had to do was remove the safety pins...

Glidden-Boyle – Before they went out...

Edlund – From the fuses before they dropped them out. And in order to do that, you had to go out on the catwalk of the plane.

Shidler – Oh, God (laughing)!

Edlund – The catwalk is about, I'd say, 10 inches wide.

Glidden-Boyle – Can we see it (possibly referencing a photograph)?

Edlund – Pardon?

Glidden-Boyle – About where?

Edlund – Well, you can't see it. It's underneath here. This door, this line here and the line down here is the bomb bay doors. When you get over the target, I open the bomb bay door. These doors roll up, they're rolling doors – just like a roll top desk.

Glidden-Boyle – So there's this big hole?

Edlund – So there's a huge hole and across it is a catwalk, which goes to the back of the plane. And that catwalk is held by a stanchion from on top of the plane. So, one of the jobs I had to do before getting to the target was go back with a pair of pliers and remove the cotter pins which were in the safety pins, where the fuse is... You're going to get a lot more than you want. The fuses had propellers on the front. Each fuse had a little metal propeller and also had one on the back of big bombs – this particular airplane had 500-pound bombs. There was a fuse on the nose and a fuse in the back so bombs are not activated unless the fuse activates them. In order to keep them safe when you're flying, there's a cotter pin that goes through the propeller, and that little metal, which keeps the propeller from...

Shidler – Turning., right...

Edlund – Now, once those bombs are released, there is a wire through there. But once those bombs are released they go down and after going maybe 500 feet, that wire is pulled out and the propeller starts spinning. And after spinning a couple hundred revolutions, it spins off and there's the firing pin sticking out. So, the fire pin's sticking out on the front fuse and one off the back. In this case, we had 500-pound bombs and there were, uh, eight of them.

Glidden-Boyle – You had eight 500-pound bombs?

Edlund – So, that means we had to remove the cotter pins from eight...no...16 cotter pins.

Glidden-Boyle – So, that was what you were doing?

Edlund – That was one of the things I was doing. I had to go out with a pair of pliers...

Glidden-Boyle – When the bomb came?

Edlund – This was before we get to the target. You had to pull a fuse out of each of those...pull a cotter pin out of each of those fuses so they would arm. By then, and what we used to do was open the bomb bay doors so that if one of them happened to go, it wouldn't tear out the whole door down. So, I'm going out there. I'm standing on the bomb bay doors at 19,000 feet on a catwalk that's 10 inches wide, holding on around one of the stanchions and reaching down with pliers and pulling the cotter pins out...

Glidden-Boyle – So, are they all sort of nose...that you've got this big, rectangular catwalk...and are all these bombs sort of nosed-out that way?

Edlund - They're nosed toward the front. There's two series of...there's a series on this side and this side...so, there's...

Glidden-Boyle – So they're elongated.

Edlund – Yeah. Oh, yes. They're like this...

Glidden-Boyle – And so, you had to push them out?

Edlund – No, no, no, no, no...I would do that when I get up in the nose. I'd get up in the nose. This is just arming them so that when go they would fire. So, once I'd done that, I'd go back in the plane and I'd go up in the nose of the plane. In order to get in the nose of the plane, you have to crawl through a tunnel. And, I would crawl through the tunnel and go up to the nose, so I'm up underneath - behind this gun turret. And this thing down here is for the bombardier to look through. And then you look down through there if you have a sight and set all these various dials and so forth are.

Well, I guess I was classified a bombardier because I had four years of high school math and in bombardier school there was a lot of math. There was a lot of trigonometry. You're figuring out the speed of the plane, the weight and the altitude – everything affects where it's going to hit. So, you would adjust the various dials and knobs you have in order so the bomb will go where it's supposed to go.

Uh, so, once I got back into the nose and get those...and this takes place going back out here...is something like a half hour before we get to the target. We have a scheduled time we get to the target. So, I'd go down and do that and then go back in the nose and set up these knobs and dials and so forth. What these do is determine the sequence – the difference in time – between when the first bomb goes and the second bomb goes. So they don't all get dumped at once.

Shidler – Right.

Glidden-Boyle – So you had gone...you were just going back to your position here...

Edlund – Well, another thing I had to do...I had to...

Glidden-Boyle – But when the bomb hit you, you were...

Edlund – Well, there's one more thing I had to do. I'm up behind. I forgot one thing. I helped the pilot and the co-pilot put on what we call flak jackets, which are like an apron. Like a coat of mayo is what it is. Canvas with steel in it both front and back. And they go over the pilot's and co-pilot's head, uh, well, just like an apron or a coat of mayo. They were a coat of mayo.

Shidler - You'd drop it over?

Edlund – Drop it over, because they're sitting in their seats. Also, I'd give them a - I'd hand to them - an infantryman's helmet – steel helmet – which they wear over the target. We were given these when we got off the ground and picked up this stuff and then gave them...so that was one of my jobs to put it over them.

Glidden-Boyle – So, this blanket of mayo goes over the head?

Edlund - Well, just open it like you have on your dress.

Glidden-Boyle – I see.

Shidler – Oh, just...and then he puts the helmet on top...

Edlund – It protects your front and your back. And then it, theoretically, protects your head also.

Glidden-Boyle – The helmet does?

Edlund – But it never protects you from a direct hit. So, I had those jobs done. Well, you asked me where I was. I had actually just finished putting the flak jackets and helmets on the pilot and co-pilot. I turned and right behind them is a trap door in the back, right behind them. The trap door leads to a tunnel which leads to the bomb bay or (unintelligible)...

Glidden-Boyle – Which is where you were...

Edlund - And I was just leaning over. In fact, I was reaching down with my right hand to open the trap door. Uh...I was kneeling down on this knee and I had this arm and this leg. Reached down like that and the moment I touched, the moment I touched the latch on the door to open it up, there was an explosion. And, uh, I felt nothing at all. A lot of white smoke filled the compartment. And when the smoke cleared, there was my arm on the floor. But I tell all that in the book. I don't really want to tell...I don't care, if you want to listen...All this leads up to, I got, after four hours, I was brought back to Italy.

Shidler – They don't stop their bomb run to take you back?

Edlund – And don't forget, we were going 150 miles an hour. We weren't going 60 miles an hour. You can fly from southern Italy to...we were just outside...we were just north west of the target...north west of Vienna. You can fly that today in an hour.

Glidden-Boyle - But eventually, you must have felt this and did you bandage yourself up? And what, I mean, you didn't just...did you lie on the floor for four hours? You would have bled to death!

Edlund – Oh, oh, oh...wow...I felt it! I felt it!! Well, uh, I had all my lessons in first aid and every "Basic" had first aid and I knew the main artery was under the arm. And I held this part of the arm, planked it behind...and alternately, was holding it like this. Fortunately, the Navigator dumped the bombs out...uh, just triggered them out...dumped them out. So, when that...he then came back up and he tried to use a small vial of morphine to get my hand...so I tell all that in there in great detail. But, it was a long ride.

Shidler – (Laughing) Yes, I guess...

Glidden-Boyle – I see you also had a severe injury on your leg.

Edlund – A shell hit here and blew up.

Glidden-Boyle – So, you bandaged that up yourself?

Edlund – No, no, no, I didn't do that. I just lay there moaning and groaning and moaning and groaning and wishing the flight were shorter.

Glidden-Boyle – For four hours?

Edlund – Four hours. Then when we got back to the base, got in an ambulance and went to the hospital – the base hospital – base hospital, yeah, the base hospital. I was there for about a week. And then...I'm leading you up to my education...

Shidler – I know, I'm aware. I'm happy, don't...

Glidden-Boyle – I mean, what could be more educational than this? I mean, it makes school sound insignificant.

Edlund - ...and transferred to another hospital outside of Bari - Bari, Italy. That's near Foggia...F-O-G-G-I-A. Both of them are on the Adriatic. And, uh, in this hospital, I set forth (unintelligible) and came in touch with a Red Cross woman. Uh, I spent a lot of time trying to trace her down. I finally found her in a cemetery in South Bend.

Shidler – Oh...

Edlund – Uh, but I think she was the one who told me about the GI Bill of Rights. I was injured on June 26, 1944 and the GI Bill had been signed into law by President Roosevelt on June 22nd, four days before I was injured. Uh, as part of my education, also, I learned in this hospital that I was the only one injured that day. The next mission, the crew went out with a replacement bombardier for me and they were all killed - except two, including the replacement bombardier. The waist gunner managed to bail out and the navigator bailed out. The rest were all killed. And they'd been hit a different target exactly the same way.

Shidler –From above.

Edlund – The planes came down through them and they came from 30,000 feet up and they never saw them and they were just shot down. Eight of the people - eight of the crew - that I was on were killed in action. So, I knew that the week after. I think that probably had some kind of beneficial effect upon me, psychologically. I knew, at least I always thought, that if I hadn't been injured I would have been in worse shape.

Shidler – Ah, yes (laughs).

Edlund – So, I’ve never...I don’t believe I’ve ever had any, uh, I don’t want to say regrets. I don’t think I’ve ever had any...indulged in self-pity over it. Um, about the Red Cross...Adelaide Stoll. S-T-O-L-L.

Glidden-Boyle – Let me just ask you...it must have made you feel...chosen, because if that had not happened...

Edlund – Oh, yes, yes. No, I was...I’ve always wondered, “Why me?”

Glidden-Boyle – But extraordinarily chosen...special...

Edlund – Sure, sure. What I’ve said in this story I’ve told here, I said, “July 1944 – A New Beginning” because, uh, I had gone from high school to work. I wanted to go to college but never could figure out what I wanted to do. And I’m not sure my parents...well...I don’t know. I never did go to college. I was three years out of high school when I went in the military...four years...three years. So, I met this Red Cross woman in the hospital and she told me about the GI Bill. And she also learned that I was a great reader. And, uh, I got a lousy expression, a kind of confusion or something about why I was there or what was going on. I was flat on my back with this...I was in bed for three, almost three months. They had a U-shaped cast on this leg to keep it stiff. One leg...did too many skin graft attempts. But she brought me books to read and the only one I remember is Andre Malraux’ Man’s Fate, which is a novel about the Spanish Civil War. And I read that and I read others and she must have talked about the GI Bill because I decided when I’d come home...when I’d come home...that I’d go to college.

So, I came home, eventually. I was injured June 26th and they didn’t ship me home until after Labor Day. And I was carried back on a stretcher, in an ambulance I guess. Brought into Miami Beach where they’d taken over a resort hospital - or a resort and made it a hospital. From there, I was flown to Battle Creek, Michigan, where I spent 10 months – in Percy Jones General Hospital. Turns out, it’s the same hospital Bob Dole was in.

Shidler – Oh, really?

Edlund – I read it someplace. But anyway, while I was in the hospital, I visited the nearby University of Michigan campus. I went to Yale to take the entrance exam. This was long before SATs. And I had chosen Yale, I guess, because I read in some magazine that they were offering one-semester credit for military service. And also, I met a girl. We used to call them “girls” then...

Shidler – (laughing) Yes...

Edlund - I met a girl over at Westover Field. She was at Smith College. She was a junior or senior at Smith. So, I wandered back east near her. Well, eventually, she didn't think I was as great as she did before the War. She sent me a "Dear Paul" letter. But any rate, I applied at Yale, took their exam and was notified about three weeks later I was accepted. So, I went. I got out of the military on May 1st of '45 and was at Yale as a freshman at 23. I guess, after 4th of July, I started summer session. I graduated three weeks later...not three weeks, three years later and uh, July '48 with a BA in History. We got married back in the fall of '47. We got married at...

Shidler - You met her while you were at Yale?

Edlund - Senior year...on a blind date. And we got married a month after I graduated.

Glidden-Boyle - What was it about the military that, if you, before the military you weren't sure that you wanted to go to college and, if you did, what you were going to study. What was it about the military that collected you and not only helped you decide to go to college, but to go to Yale?

Edlund - Well, I went to Yale because, as I said, they were offering one semester credit for military service.

Shidler - - Oohee!

Edlund - And at the age of 23, I was...uh...wanted to get on with my life. I went to graduate with a BA at 26. I wasn't the only one. There were an awful lot of...

Shidler - Well, I was going to say...sure, lots of people...

Edlund - As far as history goes, I decided to make history of it when I was in Italy. I had always been interested, uh, I had a great history teacher in high school. Uh...

Glidden-Boyle - But you had a big math background.

Edlund - I had four years of math. Uh, actually, I was then, and I still am, interested in a lot of things. I guess I'll never be able to specialize. I read now - I read biographies, histories. I read novels and I read...Right now, I'm reading a biography about Joseph Conrad. I've got one of Abraham Lincoln waiting. I've just got a wide interest in a lot of subjects. That's probably why I eventually ended up in the library work. Anyway, I went and taught at Cooperstown, New York. Taught American History there, uh, for one year at a boy's school in Cooperstown, New York.

Shidler - Wait a minute. Let me straighten myself out. You graduated from Yale in '40 what?

Edlund - '48.

Shidler – And you taught in '48 and '49?

Edlund – I taught in a boy's school, Cooperstown Academy in '48 and '49.

Shidler – The academic, '48 and '49?

Edlund – Uh huh.

Shidler – You were married in '47?

Edlund – No. We were married in '48. I met Mary Jane in '47.

Shidler – You were married and taught?

Glidden-Boyle – Simultaneously?

Shidler – I think...

Edlund – I'm not sure...I think probably Mary Jane would argue, not argue but, she'd probably...going and living in a boy's boarding school three months after you're married in a small apartment at the end of the boy's dorm is probably not the greatest way to start your marriage.

Shidler – To begin your marriage...yes.

Edlund – Because I was not only the teacher, but I was in charge...

Shidler – You were the House Man...

Edlund – House Man, whatever you call it...

Shidler – House Father...

Edlund – These were the ones that I had on our...I don't want to call them a "ward". But there was one area – one section – of school and these were the...I guess you call them junior-high age, which is probably not the most lovely age for boys.

Shidler –No...

Glidden-Boyle – Which school was this?

Edlund – Cooperstown Academy. It was a boy's school. It's no longer there. In fact, it died the year I was there (Shidler and Edlund laugh). I don't take any credit for its death. I refuse. In fact, I got offers to go to other schools when I left there because I really enjoyed teaching. I taught American History. Although I will never forget the first American History class I had. I prepared for hours and when I got in, I ran dry in about ten minutes. Which I guess is not unusual...

Shidler – I've had that experience.

Edlund - ...if you're a teacher. But I enjoyed teaching and I think I was good at it. Would have been good at it if I stayed on. But I left there at the end and went down to the University of Virginia to go to graduate school. And, uh...

Shidler – So, this is academic '49?

Edlund – This would be '49 and '50. I got the coursework completed and then - I'm not sure what happened. I know what happened but I'm not sure why it happened. I went back...back...I didn't finish the master's degree. I went back to where we got married in Mary Jane's hometown of Attleboro, Massachusetts. I'm not sure to this day why I did that. Uh, anyway, I did. I ended up getting a job teaching in the Attleboro public school system. Uh...more out of desperation than anything else. We were living in her house. You're not going to use this in any book, are you?

Shidler – You can tell us what we can't put in (laughs).

Edlund – (Laughing). So, anyway, I ended up teaching junior high school American History and high school American History. Therefore, just under three years. I decided I had to go back to the master's work. So, packed up, went back down to Charlottesville, finished the master's degree, wrote the thesis and theoretically, wind up PhD History. While there, I worked full-time at the University of Virginia library. I wrote the thesis in the day-time and worked in the library from 3-11 nights. And I liked the work immensely. I like the people. Um...I also was disturbed by the fact that a number of other graduate students there were pushing 40...uh..working on their PhD. Their wives were working full-time supporting them. At that time, we had two children. One was almost ready to go to 1st grade. And I decided, "I want to go to work!" I was pushing 30. I was 30 and I wanted to go to work.

Shidler – Stop for a minute. Where were the kids born, Attleboro?

Edlund – Karen was born in the University of Virginia hospital the first time we were down there and Krista was born in Attleboro when I was teaching there. Uh, so, back down to get the master's degree. Theoretically, I got a PhD, but when I was there I said, "Oh, I like the library. I like the people in it." I just liked that kind of an atmosphere. And, the graduate students to me just seemed awfully narrow. They were solely - and I'm a history major - they were so totally engrossed in what happened in 1737 in a small colony that they didn't read the newspaper. I said, "I don't want to be like that". So, I made the ...most of the people on staff had gone to the University of Michigan Library School, so I went there. I went there and spent one year, got a library degree and was interviewed at several places. Interviewed to go to Cornell. The library staff there wanted Notre Dame. But I had the chance to come to the Library of Congress, so I chose that. I came to the Library of Congress in the fall of '55 and we lived in Bradley Boulevard Apartments off of Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda.

Shidler – '55, 55, you're now?

Edlund – '55, I was 33...I think I went to Library of Congress. I felt if I stayed down here in Virginia, I'd probably be 43 before I got a job (laughs). But this seemed like the way for me to go and seemed so clearly because I had spent a large part of my life by the time I was 12 on in libraries. And I didn't realize people actually worked in them and made a living out of it. I wasn't in a library until I was about 10 or 12 years old taking out books. So, anyway, I lived in the Bradley Boulevard Apartments from '55 to '58 and I did not like driving in and out of Washington.

Shidler – (laughing).

Edlund – At that time, I didn't like it. Today, I mean...no way. So, we decided to look for a house to buy. We were ready to buy a house after I had done this a few years. And I wasn't going anywhere else. I had offers while I was at the Library of Congress to go to the universities. I had an offer to go to the Yale Library.

Shidler – You decided that the LC (Library of Congress) is where you wanted to be.

Edlund – The LC was where I wanted to be. And the prevailing philosophy, if you want to call it that, at that time was if you wanted to advance in Library work, you'd work two years in a library and go someplace else. Well, I'd been doing that for about five years. I didn't want to do that. I didn't want to pack up my family and move someplace else. This was a place where I could stay and get promoted working from within and move up the ladder. So, I turned down the job at Yale. They wanted me to head up the order department at Yale Library. And I had enough knowledge of university libraries to know that you have the same kind of backbiting and feuding that you have with the faculty staff.

Glidden-Boyle – So, when you first went to the Library of Congress, what was your position? What did you do?

Edlund – Well, they accepted me into what they call the Intern Program. At that time, they were taking about five graduate library students from around the Country a year. I was one of the five they selected that year. They had applications from various library schools around the Country to participate in their intern training program. And I was one of the five that they selected that year in the fall. So, I spent six months working in various departments in the Library of Congress – two weeks here, a month here. I spent some time in the triptych catalog, catalog order division, records department, various places. But, when I got through with that...

Glidden-Boyle – Were you paid?

Edlund – Oh, yeah, I was paid. Paid at a GS-7 salary, which at that time was \$3,800. So, I went around that and then I got...shortly after that I was promoted...I was on staff from '55 until I retired in '92, which is 27 years.

Glidden-Boyle – 37 years...

Edlund – Hmm?

Glidden-Boyle – '55 to '92 is 37 years.

Edlund – I'm sorry. I said '92? I retired in '82.

Shidler – Oh, '82!

Edlund – '82. So, was on the staff for 27 years and had 13 different jobs in 20-some years. The last one I had was - I had the longest – I had ten years. I was Executive Officer of the Process Department, which is a department of 1,800 employees and I had about four divisions. So, I was in charge of personnel policies and procedures, budget, uh, all the foreign things nobody else wanted to deal with – EEO matters, (unintelligible) also.

Glidden-Boyle – Well, here's where your military and financial background kicked in.

Edlund – Yeah, I think. Well, I think all my education was beneficial. You might want to "schlew" that three or four minutes over Austria.

Shidler – (Laughing) Yes, aside from that.

Edlund – No, I've never - I have no regrets about my past.

Glidden-Boyle – It sounds like it all came together.

Edlund – As far as I'm concerned it did. It all helped. I mean, so I think the whole thing is, well... I have a lot of interests. I always have had and I still have. I would hate not to have them. I don't think I've ever been bored in my life. Uh, so I don't, I just - the Library of Congress was the place for me and I never regretted leaving. I did the last year I was there. I didn't enjoy it as much as I did before. And the reason was that I got into problems that were not solvable. Race problems.

Glidden-Boyle – Yeah, totally.

Edlund – Those were not solvable, at least within my sight. They were solvable in the long run. Uh...I was on the Library's negotiating committee for two contracts with AFSCME – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. The staff no longer voted to have unions. That would have been in 1980 sometime. And I was one of the representatives on the Library management team who were on the negotiating team. And we negotiated two contracts – one for the professional employees and one for the sub-professionals. And that took about a month to negotiate. That was all right. I didn't have a problem with that. But then we got to the point now where, and they're still in that, where race enters in. And it's obvious and evident that it will. For years, the Library was the place to go. And a lot of the lower grade jobs were held by blacks. That's not unusual and I'm not saying that it's right or wrong. It's not an issue. And that's true of all (unintelligible). The Federal Government, on the other hand, has done a monumental thing in what it's done for blacks. I don't know of many other places that's done as much for blacks as the Federal Government. Prince George's County now has an enormous number of professional blacks that work for the Federal Government. And I think that's great. Uh, but I didn't know how to solve the problem and we didn't...I don't think I was unique in that area...

Glidden-Boyle – What was the problem?

Edlund – Well, the problem was that, uh...you had to go...you had...say, you had, uh...I experienced some of it in one of the jobs I had when you had to do a lot of hiring. The only requirement of the job was a bachelor's degree in history. I was the (unintelligible) for the Library of Congress for 15 months – manuscript division where they would receive all the presidential papers and process through. We'd receive the papers and process the registers and publications. And the only requirement to work in that section to be a processor of papers was a BA in history. I interviewed several people. I'd interviewed a man from Georgetown with a BA in history. I'd interview a black from a very small college in South Virginia. And I had no other choice than to choose the man from Georgetown because his remarks and answers were far better than this other man. I don't think that was prejudice. I'm sure it isn't. Uh, I'm not sure, I'm not sure if anything's right. I don't think it is. But, that kind of situation - we were going through all the time. And, of course, they would object and they'd file a complaint.

Glidden-Boyle – Because on the basis of race?

Edlund – Uh, finally in my executive office, we had one man who was in the catalog division. He'd catalog one book a day - one book a day. You'd have to almost do that sleeping. One book an hour was a better rate for cataloging a book. But, he'd do one a day. So, I finally took...and he was doing this...he had unsatisfactory ratings, time after time. Finally, he was given a warning and his final release.

Well, he went to the Court, or whatever he went through, the procedure and eventually, it went to the Court and the Court granted him the job back. This went on for about three years. And this sort of thing is frustrating. I'm sure it's frustrating as hell for him but it's not so frustrating as hell for other people. How do you make the "system" work? How do you try to appoint the best-qualified person and, yet, at the same time, try to...I don't know. I still don't know the answer. I don't know if anybody else knows the answer but when I...

Glidden-Boyle – How do you give them a (unintelligible), pull them up and, you know, allow to give them the opportunity to achieve?

Edlund – This guy would never have achieved. He just, he just couldn't do the work. But, the last year and a half I was in, I had, I spent – in about a 40 hour week – I spent 37 hours on that kind of case. And even if it was only involving .1001% of the staff, you spent much of your time. I decided, "Well, I don't need this." So, I turned 60 on May 11th, 1982 and I told them that I was going to retire. But, other than that, I had a fabulous career and I would never, never regret it...I was grateful.

Glidden-Boyle - There's a friend of mine that I was going to have lunch with today and you know him. Declan Murphy?

Edlund – Pardon?

Glidden-Boyle – Declan. Do you know Declan Murphy, who was assistant head? He may have come after you left. You left in 1982?

Edlund – I left in '82, yeah. I don't go down much. The last time I went down there was six months ago. Occasionally, I go to the newspaper reading room because they have a lot of newspapers that we don't have in the public library here. But, the staff – most of the staff - has changed. And they're still experiencing this uh...they're having all kinds of difficulty. And I don't see any near-term solution. It's not necessary that I do. And I'm sure that any of them don't. Uh...I don't know. It's a tough problem to solve.

Glidden-Boyle – What's the name of the head of the Library now?

Edlund – Billington.

Glidden-Boyle – Billington. He was the assistant to...Billington.

Edlund – Bill Welch?

Glidden-Boyle – No. Declan Murphy.

Edlund – Oh, must have come after me.

Glidden-Boyle – He did, I guess. Yeah, because he came after 1982.

Shidler – Is Ray Billington the historian Ray Billington?

Edlund – He's a Russian historian.

Glidden-Boyle – Right.

Edlund – And he's said there are all kinds of problems.

Glidden-Boyle – And, yeah, it's exactly what you're talking about. The largest issue at the Library of Congress is...

Edlund – Did Billington...

Glidden-Boyle – No, well, he didn't specifically say...

Edlund – Well, you mean the black interests (unintelligible). Well, I left in '82 and it was a problem then. So we're talking about 14 years later. And...it makes me feel good – I'm only kidding – that they don't have any more of a solution that I did when I was there. Uh...I don't know how to solve it.

Glidden-Boyle – I know.

Edlund – You're trying to run an organization, uh, which is based to a large extent on pretty high intellectual standards and this goes all the way back to kindergarten for blacks and all the rest of them. It takes years and years. How do you...

Glidden-Boyle – How did the Army do it?

Edlund – Hmm?

Glidden-Boyle – How did the Army do it?

Edlund – I don't know. The Army...well, the Army...When I was in the Army, of course, Truman was president in '45 when I was back in the states and he issued an executive order, uh, well, basically integrating the military service. But that was not easy to do then. Uh...there. That's issue grade, which was devoted to the GI Bill of Rights. That man was in the bed next to me in the hospital in (unintelligible)...

Shidler –Wiley?

Edlund – Wiley (last name unintelligible).

Glidden-Boyle – Really?

Edlund – And he told me what...and he was a first lieutenant and a pilot of a B-51 which flew escort for us. And he told me what he had gone through to get his commission. They tried...He was a member of the 99th fighter squadron, which was an all-black fighter squadron that was headed by the General...uh, a black General. They tried experimenting. They took blacks with college educations right in to the Army (unintelligible) a college education.

Shidler – But they were...

Edlund – They were and they said it was a special school in Tuskegee and he became a B-52 pilot, a fighter pilot. And he was in the bed next to me - and in the war in Italy and that unusual. I remember being visited by three chaplains - one was Jewish, one was Catholic, one was Protestant. The Jewish and the Catholic came to see me and asked me if (unintelligible)...anything I could do for them...would I want them to write a letter. The Protestant chaplain came to me. He was from Alabama. He spent all this time talking about this guy who was next to me - “Isn’t it terrible that that kind of person should be in the same room?” And I’m laying...I’m there...about three days out of being critically injured and he’s giving this BS. I had a lot of fascinating talks with this guy...uh...real sharp guy. I’ve been meaning to write him. I can call to Howard University and they have his address but they want me to write a letter to him. Well, we had a lot of fascinating talks. He told me what he went through to get a commission and getting wings and I told him what I went through. Uh...um?

Glidden-Boyle – Did you feel camaraderie or did you, when you were talking to him, was it difficult for you? Were you...

Edlund – No, it wasn’t difficult. He was (unintelligible)...

Glidden-Boyle – Was it educational? Was it...what was your feeling of this man?

Edlund – I had no...up in Central New York, I had not known many blacks. My aunt and uncle lived in Cortland, New York., and I used to go stay with my aunt and my sisters’ sister. And they...he owned a garage, a repair shop for cars. And they had a black man who lived - who worked in their house - and who was a mechanic. Last name was Washington. Tom Washington. And he was a real nice guy. I liked him very much. But I’d never grown, never known any blacks at all. He was probably the first one I ever met in my life.

But I talked to him, like I said, he was in the bed next to me and I was in the bed and we talked about...I couldn't move. He left before I did. He was thrown out of a jeep and injured but he went back to duty. But, how'd we get on this subject? You were talking about the Library of Congress.

Glidden-Boyle – Library of Congress and the problems of race and integrating them into the Library of Congress and then, you talked about...

Edlund – Oh, I was talking about...I think to a large extent that what I'm talking about and having a degree from a, well, I don't know the answer. I had a number of blacks. One of the best blacks I worked with, which was a woman. I still see her periodically. In fact, we're going out - about six couples. We still go out twice a year for weekends. We're going to Charlottesville this year. And she and her husband come. She was my, uh, administrative assistant for the last ten years and she was Cracker Jack. Uh, she whatever...her writing wasn't that great. But she knew all about the Library, she knew various individuals and how to approach them. She just had a lot of good common sense - common sense experience. And she was real sharp. I promoted her before I left and we still see each other. She's as (unintelligible-retired, perhaps?) as I am. But, uh, no, there are a lot of sharp ones there. You can probably say the same about whites. There are a lot of sharp whites. There are a lot of...

Glidden-Boyle – (Chuckling) Less than...

Edlund – Semi-dodo's (laughs). A BA degree doesn't make you brilliant. Sort of – maybe – but, anyway, no I don't know the answer to that problem and nobody down there knows. And, Billington, is...well, he's a different animal. He's just a weirdo...Uh, he got rid of a whole bunch of people. He got rid of the deputy librarian, my good friend Bill Welsh – got rid. He told him that he wanted to make all the decisions at the top. Well, this is a 5,000-person organization. Try...that...Luther Evans back in the '30s said, "That's nuts" and he broke up the departments. This guy wanted to make all the decisions by himself. He had an organization chart, which was a circle. An organization chart with a circle. I mean, that's...I don't think the Lord Himself would make an organizational...maybe he would make an organization chart and he's in the middle. Well, anyway, that's not...has nothing to do with Garrett Park.

Shidler – (Laughing) You said you went to work at the LC in '55 and you lived on Bradley Boulevard.

Edlund – Uh huh.

Shidler – All right. Get me to Garrett Park.

Edlund – Oh, you live in Garrett Park? All right, we lived in Bradley Boulevard Apartments and we had two children at that time. And Bradley Boulevard Apartments had a ruling that you could not have three children.

Glidden-Boyle and Shidler - Laughing.

Edlund – OK, I'm sorry. You could have them, but you couldn't live in Bradley Boulevard Apartments. I'm sure that would be declared unconstitutional.

Shidler –(Laughing) That's illegal!

Edlund – That's illegal. Anyway, they had a limitation.

Glidden-Boyle – This is not China.

Edlund – So, we were ready to have a house at that time. So we started looking for houses and we spent a long time looking for houses. We looked all over Northern Virginia and ruled that out because I'd have to drive across the Potomac and also because of our oldest daughter, who had kindergarten in Ann Arbor. No, I think she had it down here. No, wait a second. She had kindergarten in Ann Arbor and she couldn't go to first grade in Virginia because of age. So, anyway, we decided to narrow our search to Maryland - on this side of the river. Never looked in the District.

Shidler –Even then? You never looked in the District?

Edlund – Well, I take that back. We did look at one house in Chevy Chase Circle. But, see, we...finally, I decided that there were two limitations on what I wanted to do and on where I wanted to move. First, I wouldn't buy any house that cost \$20,000 or more. And number two, I wanted to take the train. I decided I wanted to take the train. So, we narrowed down the search to Kensington and Garrett Park. And, pretty early settled on Garrett Park because Mary Jane had met in Bethesda Laura McLaughlin, who was into day care centers. And Laura invited us out to her house for a cocktail party. And we came out here and in the process, looked around town. And so, the train here, and we liked the small town – I'm from a small town, Fayetteville in New York which was about 2,000 people when I lived there – and I would not want to live in the City anyway. So, we narrowed the search to Garrett Park and looked at seven houses in Garrett Park. We looked at one that was under \$20,000 and we bought it. That one, the 18 house up on Kenilworth, up there...the old Victorian. And that was \$19,600.

Shidler – (Laughing) You just barely crawled under.

Edlund – Crawled under.

Glidden-Boyle – And the year was 19...?

Edlund – '58, July of 1958. We actually bought it in the fall of '57 – signed the papers to buy it. And the Keene's, Cal Keene was a professor of religion at Howard University, and he wanted to keep the house until the school semester ended in June. And that was great with us so we stayed in the apartment, did not manage to sign off until July of '58.

Shidler – Did you get out with only two children or did one of them come along - over the limit?
(laughing).

Edlund – Actually, one was born on the day when the apartment...no, that was our son, Paul. He was born in Suburban Hospital and we still lived in the apartment. We kept the shades all drawn and didn't let anybody know about the third child. And then we proceeded to, once we moved out here, we ordered our refrigerator and some of our belongings that we put in storage in Charlottesville before we went out to Michigan (unintelligible). So, then we ordered those and had those shipped up from Charlottesville – no, we had them shipped up to Bradley Boulevard Apartments, I'm sorry – and then we moved out here to a house that I never understood why we bought it except that it was the right price (laughs). That was an unbelievable experience, moving into that house. Cal and what's her name? She was German.

Shidler – I can't...I know her name but I can't tell you.

Edlund - Ilse? Anyway, I think the greatest shock was moving in that house. At that time, it had a deck, it had a box shed off the kitchen, which the laundry was there...wasn't laundry...laundry tub and hot water heater. I remember that shed when we went through looking at the house and I thought, "Oh, God...I hope they figure something." When we got back they had not. What she had done – she was a glass bottle saver – every ketchup bottle, every olive bottle, every bottle she bought, she'd save, clean it out and wash it and put it on the shelf in the shed. There must have been thousands of glass bottles. I don't know. She must have been...

Shidler – She was a German. She was tidy (laughs).

Edlund – I think she must have cooked or canned...she must have been a canner. They were just sitting on shelves, thousands of them. So, when we first moved in the house we got bushel baskets, filled them with glass jars.

Glidden-Boyle – We weren't recycling then.

Edlund – (Laughing) No, we weren't recycling. So, I carried every stupid one of those out to the curb. And, of course, the house itself was dark. I don't know why. Because our intention of buying a house was a nice colonial house, I mean a Cape Cod. That was our idea. We bought this old, three-story Victorian which – in the attic – they didn't clean the attic. They saved rolls of wallpaper that they had left over when they wallpapered rooms.

Glidden-Boyle – Strange...

Edlund – That was. Wallpaper rolls and I don't know what else. I spent weeks cleaning (laughing) and then we started working on it. And then we spent 32 years. Never did get it definitive, whatever the hell that is. And the present owner didn't move in until after he bought it. He saw me on the porch one day and said, "Paul, I don't know how you and your wife lived there for 32 years." I just smiled and walked away.

Glidden-Boyle – That must have made you feel great.

Shidler – (Laughing). Somebody told me a wonderful story about your house, about something in the fireplace or, when you first got there? What am I dreaming about?

Edlund – Fireplace?

Shidler – Animals in your fireplace or something?

Edlund – Well, we had the kitchen done over, well, let's say several years before we left. Actually, we put a new kitchen on. We tore the back off the house...tore the old shed off. We didn't do it personally, we had it torn off. And they tore the back of the house off. And in back of the kitchen, there was this chimney. The house had six chimneys – four in the front around, one in the front hall, one in the front living room, one in the dining room, the other...

Shidler – A central heating, in other words (laughs)?

Edlund – A central heating unit. A central heating function. Then, they had a fireplace in the kitchen but it was closed off. Uh, shortly after we had...we did so many renovations on that house...one time, we decided to open up that shed. We, being me. There was a metal...a piece of metal was in there in the slots over the flue line.

Shidler – Yeah, a damper.

Edlund – So, I got in there with a hammer to hammer it out. And I hammered it out. Unfortunately, I hammered out – this was about the second building, room renovation – which we put up beautiful wallpaper up with rabbits on it. It was gorgeous. It was very expensive wallpaper.

Shidler –(Laughing) Rabbits?

Edlund – Rabbits.

Shidler – (Laughing) Well, everybody has their own tastes.

Edlund – Everybody has their own tastes. Anyway, it was shortly we had – I probably wallpapered – I did all the wallpaper down there.

Glidden-Boyle – Yeah, I remember.

Edlund – Uh, all the wallpaper. This story about “as busy as a one-armed wallpaperer” is a lot of bunk.

Shidler – (Laughing).

Edlund – Wallpapering is not very difficult. In fact, I’d rather wallpaper than paint. Anyway, I finished wallpapering the kitchen and there’s this and I thought, “I’ll open this again. Maybe I can make use of it”. I got out the hammer and started tapping on this piece of metal door. Unfortunately, it took a lot of tapping. It took a lot of pounding. And finally, it gave. Finally, I hit it and it shot out. Well, 60 years of soot and dead birds - deader than you think - and it had exploded in that kitchen. Exploded and that black soot went over everything – all that new wallpaper. Mary Jane came out to look at it and started crying and went in and shut the door to the kitchen. She said, “You clean it up”. So, she walked out. There was probably more than that, “You clean it up, you SOB.” Probably more. And, oh, an absolute mess...horrible. That was that time. So, no, we did a lot of work...

Glidden-Boyle – Who made these rules that there could be only two children. Who was this, the Town Council? Who was this?

Edlund - No, no it was Bradley Boulevard Apartments, Bradley Boulevard Apartments. This was apartments on Bradley Boulevard.

Glidden-Boyle – OK, I’m sorry.

Edlund - Oh, they had all kinds of rules like that. You couldn’t be a this, you couldn’t be that. Now a days, they’d take you to court for that sort of stuff.

Shidler – Right, at the drop of a hat.

Edlund – That’s 1958 vintage. No, that wasn’t this town. This town, they don’t have any rules. They just...they don’t exist on rules.

Shidler – Well, they did. We did for a while. You bought that house from Keene. Who did Keene buy it from? Where does (Herman) Hollerith (inventor of the punch card machine) come in that?

Edlund - Keene. I don’t know that Hollerith ever owned it. I don’t think...

Shidler – He only rented it, right?

Edlund – He only rented. He rented that house and he rented the Church house.

Shidler – Uh huh.

Edlund – I think he only rented. I looked all through the land records. I don't find any record of his owning any property in Garrett Park.

Shidler – Uh huh.

Edlund – So, he had to be a renter. I've also looked at the Hallorith papers in the Library of Congress, which are in the manuscript division. I looked at - I read. There's a biography of Hallorith that came out a few years ago and there's no mention, I don't think, no mention of Garrett Park.

Shidler – Of his being here.

Edlund – But I don't ever find that he...I've never found that he owned a house in Garrett Park. So, I think that he was a renter. That's all.

Shidler – So, you had one child born in town?

Edlund - Uh, Leslie was born in (unintelligible) hospital. That's right.

Shidler – And Leslie, because we came in '61 and I babysat her for a while.

Edlund - You what?

Shidler – I babysat Leslie when she was a baby for a while.

Glidden-Boyle – Mary Jane said she babysat your children. Did she?

Shidler – I don't know but I remember Leslie when she was a...(laughing). OK (laughing).

Edlund – Yeah, Leslie was the smallest. But she's now the tallest. That's her and she's the tallest now.

Glidden-Boyle – So, you have how many children?

Edlund – Fortunately, four. Three daughters and a son. The son is number three.

Shidler – Now you built this house when? (Referring to 10922 Kenilworth Avenue).

Edlund – We sold the house down there in May of '90. And the reason we sold it...we'd been looking for a house...small. The children had all grown up and gone away. And we didn't need 12 rooms to heat or I didn't need a three-story wooden house to take care of...

Shidler – To keep painting (laughing)!

Edlund – Painting - we only painted one side at a time. I spent a lot of the last year trying to keep the porch from falling down. Cleaning out rotten wood and taking out this. We finally had the porch rebuilt. It cost, I think, we paid off the mortgage. We had to take out a new mortgage - \$18,000 to rebuild the porch. Uh, and start a mortgage payment all over again. And I spent a lot of the last few years taking out rotten steps and rotten floorboards. And I said, “I don’t need this anymore.” So, we were looking for houses but we didn’t want to leave Garrett Park. We looked at some houses in Garrett Park and they were all too small. And, we really didn’t think about anyplace else. Neither one of us wanted to leave here. Uh, so, at that time when we were thinking about it in the spring of ’90, Avery Homes bought the house that was here and tore it down. And immediately laid out the lines for footings for two houses similar to the ones he’d built elsewhere around town. And when we heard that the building permit was stopped by the County because he didn’t have two buildable lots, uh, this fence over here is 15 feet over on this lot. He tried, I understand, that he tried to buy this from the Leahey and Leahey wouldn’t sell. There’s a wedge here that’s part of this lot and also, they lost on this side by a wedge...

Shidler – He tried to buy that, too, didn’t he - from Guernsey?

Edlund – Yeah, he had two buildable lots and he wanted to build two \$600,000 houses. And he was stopped. When I heard that – of course, he lived next store to us – and I called and said, “Would you consider building Mary Jane and me a house?” He said, “Well, I’ve got to have something in 30 days if I’m going to do something.” He’d got money tied up. So, we went immediately, I went up to Borders Bookstore and got a whole bunch of plan books to try to figure out what we wanted. Uh, we – this was kind of a rushed deal. So, we figured out what we wanted. Well, the smart thing to do is get a one-story house in case we ever get old...

Shidler – Right.

Edlund – ...which we were doing on a regular basis.

Shidler – (Laughing) Yes.

Edlund – So, we, uh...after finding some kind of rough idea - I don’t know where we got it – find some plan of some house, one-story house – we then went to Dave Almy and said, “We need a rough sketch of a house on this particular lot.” So, he gave us a rough sketch after two or three meetings. And I took them to Avery and finally we got - signed a contract - that he would build us a house on this lot. And Dave got the plans and I’m not sure how Dave got the plans to him in 30 days because Dave doesn’t work that (unintelligible)...

Shidler – Nope...

Edlund – As you know...

Shidler – You’ve created a miracle, that’s what you did (laughing)!

Edlund – (Laughing) And he, so he got the plans of the house that we liked. So, signed a contract with Avery, Avery homes and uh, and uh, he said he'd have it done in the fall. This was May of '90. And he agreed. We're out of sequence now. I guess we put that house...I don't remember the sequence...we put that house up for sale Oh, I wouldn't swear to the sequence. Put that house up for sale and before we put the house for sale, the real estate agent said, "You've got to get it painted before you put it up for sale." Well, I got two estimates to paint that house. One was for \$13,000 and one was for \$7,000. I want you to guess which one I took.

Shidler – Can't imagine.

Edlund – We took the \$7,000 one and they were...only one of them could speak English – they were Latin Americans. They came on a Sunday and started working. No, they came on a Saturday and started working. We had an open house on, like, a Sunday. They started scraping it on a Monday. We had a signed contract to buy the house up there on Wednesday. The people who bought it also didn't want to move in right away so they let us stay there. And, of course, they never did move in. The Goldberg's, they couldn't sell their house in the District and they didn't have any contingency clause saying this contract was contingent on the sale of that one. So, uh, they held it for...then we eventually moved out. This house became available on November 1st. We moved in here, just down the street, and left that house there. The Dovers, who bought that house up there for \$605,000, eventually sold it to the Simenauers for \$645,000, which was the price we had originally asked for - \$645,000.

Shidler – Huh!

Edlund – I'm not complaining. I think it's humorous.

Shidler – One of those things.

Edlund – A slice of life. So, people were asking if I regret. I don't have a regret at all. It's a, you know, it's an enormous relief. I have dreams about replacing the roof. The roof had not been replaced since the previous...the roof on the house when we bought it was a 32 year-old roof. Two layers of asphalt over a wooden shingle. Well, now, it's all getting cedar shakes.and...

Shidler – Well, you can't put any more on than two. Two's the limit.

Edlund – No, you have to take it down and start over again. And I don't waste money.

Glidden-Boyle - What's the number? Is it Kenilworth?

Edlund – 11210. It's the blue and white Victorian...a big tower.

Shidler – It's a beautiful house.

Edlund – That’s a (unintelligible) house. All it takes is a person with money and unlimited patience and all that stuff. But he doesn’t do anything. He has it all done. It’s not the cheap way...it’s an expensive way to do it but it’s – we didn’t do that. So anyway, we bought this house and, uh, don’t regret it and like it. We have a totally different problem here in terms of garden. This is all sun and that was all shade. Not a different problem, just a different challenge. Um...this gives me plenty of time to work on the yard and the garden. I really don’t think I’m a gardener. I’m a landscaper. I love to landscape. Uh, so, that’s what I do down here. I don’t have to worry about fixing up old houses. I’m getting old now. I’m - no I’m not getting old. I’m getting older.

Shidler – You’re getting older. You’re not old.

Edlund – I’m not as young as I was last year. Uh, but no, this spot is fine. And this is the place I want to stay from here on out, whether that becomes true or not I don’t know. Time will tell.

Shidler – Well, we can’t determine that we only...

Edlund – One other question.

Shidler – All right now. You came to town in ’58, right? When did you get involved in town affairs. Immediately?

Edlund – Well, I participated in the Demisesquicentennial. Is that the one where you have...where George Payne and I wrote “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend?”

Shidler – Right. “Progress is a Girl’s Worst Friend.”

Edlund – That was my idea.

Shidler – Well, wait a minute. That’s, uh, 15 years later. You surely were involved in town affairs before then? That didn’t happen until ’73.

Edlund – No, I don’t think so. Well, I was on the, uh, Swimming Pool Board when, uh, Sam Howe was president, whenever that was.

Shidler – That was early on. Because...

Edlund – And I was treasurer of the PTA in Kensington Junior High School, whenever that was. Only my two oldest...only our two oldest children went to Kensington Junior High. Then it was no longer there. Now, it’s an old folks home.

Shidler – Then it went...yeah, yeah, yeah.

Edlund – So, I don't remember anything else. I know I was in the Citizen's Association, Swimming Pool Board and...

Shidler – And KJH.

Edlund - Kensington Junior High. I was the treasurer for a couple of years on the PTA. And that would be about it.

Shidler – Oh, so then you really *didn't* start participating until '73?

Edlund – No, I participated when I became, uh, Town Council, under Warren Johnston.

Shidler – OK, so you...

Edlund – I was on the Council...

Shidler – OK, so you were on the Council before '73?

Edlund – I was on the Council '68-'70, I think I was on the Town Council. And I'm not sure why I did that because, uh, uh, I looked up the other day in the records who nominated me. And of all the surprises, Scott Short nominated me to the Council. And the only way I knew Scott Short was, uh, he and I used to ride the train. He rode the train and we must have talked about it on the train. Uh, and he nominated me to be on the Council. So, I was on the Council, what – '68 to '70?

Shidler – I'm trying to find it here. I don't even see your name, for heaven's sake! Edlund, Edmund, no. Where's your name?

Edlund – If it's not, I'll have no choice except to sue the town.

Shidler – Absolutely!

Edlund – Poor you, as the editor and publisher...

Shidler – Yes, as the editor and publisher, yes.

Edlund – Out of the horse's mouth, I guess.

Shidler – Uh...

Edlund – It's not in there? It's got to be in there.

Shidler – '68. Wells, Guy Oyster, Alton Wells, Bender, Robert Harrison, Rapee, Ingberg, Moore, Dieffenbach...

Edlund – Wait a minute, let me see...

Shidler – Am I on the wrong page? Does that say Council Members?

Edlund – Paul E. Edlund... '66 to '68.

Shidler – Oh, well. I'm in the wrong year!

Edlund – You're in the wrong column...

Shidler – I was in the wrong column!

Edlund – '66 to '68...Bob Smyers, Aileen Newman and Gerry Kurtz.

Shidler – Ok, you were there with Aileen. And Scott Short nominated you?

Edlund – Scott Short nominated me. And I don't have any idea. I don't remember. We'd chat while waiting for the train but I'd never been in his house, he had never been in mine. I was dumbfounded when I read that. I must have agreed. He must have asked me on the train ride if I'd be on the Council. And in probably a weak moment, I said "yes."

Shidler – You were...

Edlund –When was Warren Johnston the Mayor?

Shidler – Uh, let's see. Town Mayors...Warren Johnston, from '66 to '70.

Edlund – Well, he may have asked me.

Shidler – He may have asked you...

Edlund – Because he worked at the Library of Congress at that time. He was with the Congressional Research. Now, in terms of participation, I also participated in the Christmas Sing for a number of years. And Warren Johnston was in that Christmas group that sang Christmas carols. Holly did it and Warren Johnston was in on it some way because I remember going to his house and having a...

Shidler – Well, when we moved to town in '61, that's the first thing I did. And, Holly ran it and we always met at his house first to warm up and then we always ended with a party and Bobbi and Warren's. So...

Edlund – Well, then maybe that was when (unintelligible)...

Shidler – So, you were participatory. You were participating in the sense that you were part of the caroling group.

Edlund – Yeah, yeah, yeah, I was singing. Well, I didn't even think about that. See, I was a boy soprano in an Episcopal Church choir from the time I was 12 until I was 18. Now, I'm no longer a boy soprano. I'm not even a boy or a soprano...

Shidler – Or an Episcopalian for that matter...

Edlund – Or Episcopalian. No. I've got a story to tell about Episcopalians. I married an Episcopalian.

Shidler – I want you to tell me that story on tape. I love it, I love it, I love it! And Lizzie will love it, too.

Edlund – I'm not sure that Mary Jane will let me.

Shidler – Well, that's all right.

Edlund – Well, anyway, uh, yeah...I sang with them. Donn Mader was trying to get me to join the Montgomery...

Shidler – The barbershop guys?

Edlund – I'm tempted to do it but I've got nothing to do with, uh, I don't need anymore...I enjoy singing but, uh, that...OK, I was in the choral group for a number of years.

Shidler – OK.

Edlund – In fact, I think that they sang at our house when our daughter, our Leslie, was born. They sang out in front of our house. It had to be when Leslie was born...1960.

Shidler –Right. Well, we weren't here yet. We came the next year. But tell me the story about your Episcopalian experience when you got married because I think that's a very nice story.

Edlund –Do you want to hear that now?

Shidler – I do.

Edlund – You're not going to tell Mary Jane?

Shidler – She's out of the room (laughs).

Edlund – Well, we were getting married. We had to decide which church we were going to go to have this done.

Shidler – Laughs.

Edlund – That’s not the right way of saying that. But it’s graphic and clear. And we were in Mary Jane’s hometown. She had never gone to any church. I had been baptized and confirmed Episcopalian in a church in Fayetteville, New York and sang in the choir for six or seven years. And after that, I was an altar boy. That doesn’t mean I’m religious – far, far, far from it. I sort of became a Buddhist in the interim right now, but I’m not sure where. But anyway, uh, we had to decide where to get married – what church to get married – and her mother and father, her mother figured she was the first of three daughters to be married, uh, so we hadn’t decided and said, “Well, I’d been married in a church. Want to go talk to the Episcopal minister in the town?” So, we went there and introduced ourselves and talked with the minister. He asked me questions - where I was baptized and confirmed. Turned to Mary Jane and asked her where she’d been baptized and she said, “I’ve never been baptized.” Well, he said, “I’m sorry, I can’t marry you.” He said it would be like marrying a Heathen to a Christian. I’d never envisioned myself as one.

Shidler – (Laughing) Either a Heathen or a Christian.

Edlund – Either one. Particularly after the conversation with that pastor in the hospital in Italy. Uh, and, he, I said, “Well, what can we do?” I’m a very practical person. I didn’t want a philosophical discussion to last. So, I said, “What can we do?” And he said, “Well, come back here on Friday night before the wedding and I’ll baptize her.” So, we went home and figured it all out that we’ll be there whatever time it was Friday night to baptize her. Her mother and father came. I was there and he looks around and says, “Where’s the God Father?” And I said, “Well, how about me?” (Unintelligible). So he said, “OK.” So, he baptized her, I sign the baptismal certificate as God Father of the woman I was going to sleep with the next day. So, that’s...I don’t, unfortunately, have the baptismal certificate. You might want to put that in this publication (laughing).

Shidler – (Laughing) That would be interesting!

Edlund – So...so that’s the last time that I’d been in an Episcopal church or she’d been in one – unless we’d gone to a funeral or something.

Shidler – Or someone else’s wedding.

Edlund – Somebody else’s wedding. So, that’ that’s, uh, probably it...

Shidler – I asked you a question. All right. You - you sang in Holly’s carol group, you were on the Council for four years...two...did you serve one term or two the first time?

Edlund – I served one term.

Shidler – OK, that was ’66, ’68. And then, in ’73 – how did you get involved with George in the Demisesquicentennial?

Edlund – Well, it must have gone back to the singing group. We were going to have a musical.

Shidler – Oh, that’s right! Yeah.

Edlund – Yeah, so you got to put on a musical. And, uh, so...he and I didn’t write it together. I wrote it first and then he got it and edited it and made it...

Shidler – And put his name on it...

Edlund – More George Payne style.

Shidler – And put his name on it, basically.

Edlund – That reminds me. At his 80th birthday party, I wrote that letter to him. I wrote the whole thing. He asked me afterward, “Did you write all this, Paul?” And I said, “I got a prize (?) at Library of Congress when I wrote it.”

Shidler – I thought it was brilliant! I loved it! Now listen. George was in tears, now. He can’t have been unmoved!

Edlund – Well, he couldn’t even move after I read it. I thought it was a powerful doc...I thought it was one of the best I’d ever written – and I’ve written a lot of fine things. Even if I say so myself! (laughs).

Shidler – Uh...

Edlund – Anyway, I don’t know how I got, well...it was Newt Blakeslee and George Payne and myself, uh, and Donn Mader and Millie Mader must have been in that group.

Shidler –I was in it, yeah. All of us who sang in the carol group were basically the people who did the singing.

Edlund – I just figured I was one of the finest singers in Garrett Park. I should be in this thing, so I...

Shidler – So, you wrote the whole thing first? I didn’t realize that.

Edlund – Yeah, I...

Shidler – Did George string it together with the text and the pictures?

Edlund – No, he strung nothing together. He put in...where is it...

Shidler – Well, you know when we had the performance at the school?

Edlund - George can’t believe that anybody else can write.

Shidler – I know. I understand that . I know George. I love him dearly but that's true. But, I don't mean words, I mean...

Edlund – I don't know. It doesn't make any difference.

Shidler – I mean the performance. When we did actually the performance. There was (unintelligible), there was singing, there was slide. It was a mult-media presentation.

Edlund – What's your question?

Shidler – Was he the one that strung the various elements together? You wrote...

Edlund – I have no idea.

Shidler – OK.

Edlund – I just wrote that song and I contributed another one. But I was the one that took the music from Donn and wrote "Best Friends". That was my idea.

Shidler – That's a great song. I love that.

Edlund – If you put nothing else on my tombstone , that ought to be on my tombstone.

Shidler – Oh, I love that song. I really...

Glidden-Boyle – There's a group called the Troops, Hoops Troops.

Edlund – Hoops Troops?

Glidden-Boyle – Hoops Troops. And most of them...all Yalies and Princetonians...and they act and they sing and led by Anne Boots, who's extraordinarily talented.

Edlund – Oh, really? Do you mean they're in Bethesda?

Glidden-Boyle – You should meet them because they are hysterical and they're so talented. And they sing A Cappella, and they do all these Broadway shows – old songs that we all grew up on. And they're – some of them are quite gifted.

Edlund – No, I'm not...I think the name may be bigger than (unintelligible)...

Glidden-Boyle – Right.

Edlund – So, the only thing I thought about was singing in a barbershop quartet. It's not as though I'm bored. I've got lots of things to do.

Glidden-Boyle – You're not out looking for new things.

Edlund – I'm not looking for new things, no. People ask me do I miss being Mayor. Yeah, I miss it because I miss working with people I know and I miss working with the Council members. And 98% of the time, I enjoyed it. I enjoyed it. 2 % of the time...That's not bad. Worked out well. So, I enjoyed it and it was fun.

Shidler – When you were on it the first time around, you were on with Aileen and Smyers.

Edlund – Smyers. Gerry Kurtz came the next year.

Shidler – He was a one-term or two, right?

Edlund – I'll have to look at the book. I don't remember.

Shidler – Yeah, well...

Edlund – I was on the Council just one term and I chose not to run again. And I'm not sure why that was. Uh...Warren certainly had something to do with it.

Shidler – Yeah.

Glidden-Boyle – He left?

Edlund – He'd conduct the Council meetings, at least in my view, as though he were the professor and we were the students. He stood up, if I remember right. He stood up. Uh...Warren was a brilliant guy but he had no capacity on the sentence, paragraph or a meaning.

Shidler – True.

Edlund – Uh...we used to outsmart him. I used to sit next to him in Council meetings and we used to take turns moving to adjourn. This was at like 12 o'clock or 12:30. We'd been in session for four hours. And after Gerry Kurtz, he came the year after I was (unintelligible), I remember very vividly – that's a poor thing to remember – but Warren brought a letter to a meeting he'd received. And asked the Council, "Should I read the letter or should I paraphrase it?" And Gerry Kurtz said, "Why don't you paraphrase it?" And Smyers leaned over and said, "He's obviously new around here." (laughing). So, he proceeded to paraphrase it and it took a half hour to paraphrase it. I was 50 minutes – it seemed like it. Warren just could not stop a conversation. This went on and on. And I'm a guy who likes to get to the point. Uh, not just...he wasn't right and I wasn't wrong and vice versa. I like to get to the point. Uh...after you've hacked for 50 minutes, ok, let's get to the point. He'd go on and on and on.

Glidden-Boyle – Why did you join the Council? Was there something you wanted to achieve?

Edlund – No. There was nothing I wanted to achieve. I don't know the answer to the question. I don't even know...

Shidler – (Laughing) He doesn't even know how he got nominated!

Edlund – I don't even know how I got nominated. This man nominated me. He wasn't a close friend of mine. We'd ride the train back and forth. But I don't know why. Perhaps it has something to do with my long history and interest in American History. That may have something to do with it. I'm still...I read a lot of American History. I read other history, too. I read a lot of World War I history. Basically, I love history. Now, whether that was the reason I decided to run, I don't know. This would be a practical experience to see how American government system...and I think I can say, truthfully, that in all the time I had been in Town Government, it's been very eye opening to me in terms of how the system works. What I get is a lot more sympathy for other elected officials. Whether they're President of the United States, whether they're Governor of a state or they're a County Council...

Shidler – Whatever.

Edlund – It is not as easy to do as when you're on the outside, you think it is. It's very easy to say, "Why don't you do this?" But you have to have two things – you have to have a consensus. You have to have the money. You have to have the legal authority to do it. So, it's a very, very difficult job and it gives me a great understanding and appreciation of people who are in elected office. It also gives me a greater appreciation of the system. Because the system will only work if you have a consensus and only work if you have the money, too. So, that's one thing I gained out of both that time and the later time. It's a greater appreciation of the system we have.

And whether this kind of system can be grafted on to someplace like Bosnia, I don't know – or the Middle East, I don't know. So, we really...and I also have a greater appreciation for the people I met in public office. People who serve on the County Council, who work on various Town Councils as Mayor. They're all working very, very diligently – I don't want to say all of them are. I don't know 100% of them. But a large percentage of them are working because they believe the system's important and it will work. But (unintelligible), getting consensus sounds so difficult. If you get a consensus, five to nothing on some issue, it's not much of an issue. Uh, but if you get a three to two vote, then it's a little bit more difficult. If you get a four to one, so...getting consensus is difficult. You've got five people on the Council, all of them from different backgrounds, all of whom have different majors or have gone to college. One is a lawyer, one is, uh...

Shidler – And they all want something different from the town.

Edlund – Sure. Your view of the town. So, I think it's sort of amazing in a way - it is amazing – that this town has been able to preserve some semblance of what it was. Again, I don't mean semblance in the fact that we all have outhouses or we all have kerosene lamps. But, we've maintained some sort of semblance of what this town, I think, is.

Glidden-Boyle – Are you saying structurally, as far as the Council is concerned? Or, its, um, layout...its visual. What are you referring to?

Edlund – Uh...well, let's see. You have roads in town. You have streets in town. We have had, so far, no heavy push to make like the other streets in the County. We've done it over here on Kenilworth and Oxford. Um...I think we ought to go down and build that over again. Start from scratch. But, the rest of the time we don't have people complaining about the fact – well, now and then – that this is not this way or this is not – it's sort of, in some way, it's kind of a hokey town, a honky tonk town. Uh...and I think we still have a number of people who really are not concerned that it be brought into the 21st century. Uh...that's probably not a very good answer.

Uh...one answer I think would probably be the fact that we have a strong Council-form of government. The Mayor is a figurehead. The Mayor, according to the Charter, and that's the way it's set up, is not a very strong person in terms of what he or she can get done...can only get it done as approved by the Council.

Glidden-Boyle – All five members?

Edlund – Well, you have to have a majority – four to one, three to two, five nothing. The Mayor can do nothing. The Mayor has no veto power. The County Executive has veto power. The Mayor, the Governor of Maryland, has veto power. The President of the United States has veto power. Then you go back to the Legislative body and approve it by a two-thirds margin in order to make law. We don't have that in this town. If you're Mayor, that can be frustrating because something you want to get done, you cannot get it done unless you can persuade five people that that is (unintelligible)...

Glidden-Boyle – Or even three out of five.

Edlund – Pardon?

Glidden-Boyle – Or even three...

Edlund – Well, majority...majority. You have to persuade a majority to do what you think is best in town. Uh...the thing that I thought, and Barbara feels also, that is desirable for the town...I still think it's desirable...is to have a Town Office and a Town Archiving at ground level. I still think that's desirable for the town. Washington Grove, a town with half the population of Garrett Park, has one. They've got it. They've gone through. They've got the money and they got it. There's no reason why we can't do it if we have the will. But I could not persuade. I think I could get two votes on the Council, but I couldn't get three. I think that's an important thing for the town. Well, the town doesn't believe that, at least in terms of elected officials.

Shidler – Not now, anyway.

Edlund – So, I don't see that as something that's going to happen. The only thing that would happen would be a disaster. And I hope that doesn't happen. A disaster to the town office or the archives burn or are destroyed, something like that. Then it will be too late to happen. But, I think that perhaps that is...that probably is the reason why you have the town like it is – not changing too much. We always had different houses. We had new houses like this, you have old Victorians and so forth. That doesn't bother me at all. I think that's a healthy sign to have all kinds of different types of houses. Uh...I'm not in favor of one million dollar, one and a half million dollar houses. But I'm in favor of a diversity of housing style. And I think that, perhaps, the fact that you have to get a majority vote to get something done...because the Mayor can't go ahead and get something done. Doug Duncan (County Executive), he can get something done. Even with the various rules and regulations, he can kind of get something done. He can try to placate the Council, that would work. Well, you can't do that in Garrett Park.

You also have a Council made up to a large extent of people who are working full-time. Now, that probably wasn't always true. Maybe it was. I'm not sure. You have a Town Council that works full-time is something else. That's probably one of the reasons I got off the Council, too. I was working full-time and I didn't need...whether I would have stayed or not is a different matter. I don't know. But, anyway, that's not important. So, the fact that you have to get a decision through the Council...you've got five members of the Council now, all of whom are working full-time, I think.

Shidler – Yeah, this is a working Council.

Edlund – Pardon?

Shidler – This is a working Council.

Edlund – Working Council. And that hinders them from getting things done. Uh...maybe it puts a governor on getting things done. And I don't, personally, think that's bad. Um...what was the original question (laughs)?

Shidler – Why did you run for the Council? You ran and you got off. Why did you run a second time? That's what I want to know.

Edlund – Well, I ran a second time. I wasn't working.

Glidden-Boyle – When you ran a second time, you were not working?

Shidler – You had been retired, yes.

Edlund – I retired in '82. I ran again for the Council in...uh...'86 and served until '90. And then ran for Mayor, '90 until '96. And that's ten years plus the original two. So, I was retired at that time. And I retired from the Library of Congress. Well, I guess I had a stronger feel for the town. I spent more time in the town. And I had a strong feel for it and suppose this gave me something to do in retirement and I ran for the Council. Bill Prinz was the Mayor and I knew him personally. And I'd met Will so I ran for the Council and I guess there was no opposition. And I ran again and he, uh...I think he's very good with the Council. At least he's good toward me. He more or less let me go ahead and do what I thought was desirable for the town. I picked up some of the things that were going on before – the plaques. I think someone was working on that before I started working on that. And then, that may have been...that was probably, uh..uh...over on Montrose. Name was Roy Gootenberg.

Shidler – Oh, Goot? Did he start that?

Edlund – I think Roy Gootenberg was working on the plaques before I picked it up. When he (unintelligible) town.

Glidden-Boyle – Oh, the stone. The plaques...

Shidler – There's also one up at the Town Hall.

Edlund – One at the Town Hall and one at the train station. There's also been some talk about putting a plaque up. And Roy Gootenberg had looked into it but he didn't really act to do on it. So, I asked Bill Prinz if I could go ahead and do it and he said "Sure, go ahead." So, I then proceeded to go ahead with the plaques and, uh, went down to Lamb Seal and Stencil, which I was familiar with. I think I'd done some work with them when I was at the Library of Congress. And got some estimates for plaques. Wrote up the wording for the plaques. George made me change one wording on the plaque. He changed "church" to "chapel" and I agreed with the change. But those are all my words other than that.

Shidler – But that was more accurate, actually.

Edlund – That was more accurate. No, no, I don't mind being corrected for accuracy. Style, I object. No, I don't object (laughing). So, I went ahead and got the estimate for the plaques. And I worked with Constantine (Seferlis) on the stones. Constantine made the clay mold for the relief of the town, the one down the...the relief of the chapel down by the post office. And I ordered the stone for the one in front of the Chapel from Jack Irwin Stone and Mickey Irwin, who lives, still lives in Garrett Park...

Shidler – Well, not any longer. He's in Hawaii now.

Edlund – Did he sell his house?

Shidler – I don't know so but he's in Hawaii.

Edlund – Oh. Anyway, Jack Irwin...he gave the stone to the town. They delivered and they put it in place in front of the Town Hall. The stone that's in front of Penn Place for the plaque...Constantine Seferlis and I went over to a quarry on River Road and he selected the stone and we arranged to have them deliver. Do you want to hear the story on that?

Shidler – Oh, yes!

Edlund – Well, the truck came on a morning and Constantine and I - on whatever day it was – we were waiting for the stone to come. It was amazing. Flatbed truck with the stone up behind the cab, probably 3,000 pounds. And the man said, "Where do you want it?" And we took him down where we were waiting and we said, "Right here."

End of Tape 1